

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT OF LONG BEACH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of one of the world's busiest transportation centers, the Port of Long Beach. In my District, one out of every 8 people is employed by the Port, and over 300,000 jobs across Southern California are directly involved in its operations.

As a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I look to the Port of Long Beach as a model seaport, bringing business and economic opportunities to our area through ever more efficient methods of facilitating economic trade, guided by a philosophy that is sensitive to our environment and prepared for emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 1911, the Port of Long Beach, located on 800 acres of marshland at the mouth of the Los Angeles River, was officially opened to the world. The S.S. *laqua* unloaded 280,000 feet of redwood lumber at a small pier of wood and concrete, becoming the first ship to call on the Port of Long Beach. The port now services nearly 5,000 vessels and handles more than \$100 billion worth of goods each year.

After the Los Angeles Dock and Terminal Company, the Port's original owner, declared bankruptcy in 1916, the City of Long Beach acquired the harbor and appointed a Board of Harbor Commissioners to direct its operations. In 1925, it was decided that the Port ought to be an independent city department with its own independent board.

Since then, the histories of Long Beach and its port have been intertwined. After nearly a decade of dredging and harbor improvements, in 1926 the Port of Long Beach attained "deep water" port status and recorded 1 million tons of cargo having passed through its piers since the *laqua*. The 1930's witnessed the expansion of the San Pedro Bay breakwater and the discovery of oil, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth for the Port and the City of Long Beach.

The U.S. Navy established a facility in 1940 at Terminal Island that would become the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, which provided critical support to America's operations in the Pacific during World War II, and remained a major military facility until 1997.

The port continued to grow in size, capacity, and technological sophistication. It became the first of its kind in the Americas to install a shore-based radar system in 1949, and Time Magazine dubbed the Port of Long Beach "America's Most Modern Port." In 1973 the Port of Long Beach became the first port in

the Western Hemisphere to receive the Environmental "E" Award from the American Association of Port Authorities for its efforts to prevent oil spills, process sewage, clean the harbor, and monitor water quality, and received the E-Star Award from the United States Department of Commerce one year later.

In 1980, the Port of Long Beach was the first American port of call for Chinese ships following normalized relations. 1996 and 1997 saw the Port of Long Beach handling more shipping containers than any other U.S. port. Today, nearly 1 out of every 5 American shipping containers pass through its facilities.

The Port also continues its legacy of environmentally sensitive operations through its Green Port Policy and its Clean Air Action Plan which have become the model for similar facilities around the world seeking to improve water quality, reduce emissions, prevent contamination, protect wildlife, and implement sustainable practices in daily operations.

In recent years, the Port of Long Beach has taken unprecedented steps to connect with its surrounding communities, offering free tours of the Port to the public, holding community forums, awarding scholarships, pioneering trade-related educational programs, and hosting the annual Green Port Fest.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Port of Long Beach for a century of innovation and the critical role it plays in American trade with the world. I am thankful for the contributions to American shipping made during the Port's history, and I acknowledge the critical importance of the Port to America's continuing prosperity and future trade for the next 100 years.

HONORING TWO ITALIAN MAYORS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge two Italian mayors who serve some of the most popular destinations in Italy: Dott. Antimo Silvestre, Mayor of Casandrino, Italy, and Dott. Antonio Di Brino, Mayor of Termoli, Italy. As an Italian-American and a former mayor of a Pennsylvania city rich in Italian culture, I believe it is important to recognize my counterparts in my family's native country.

Located in southern Italy, Casandrino is part of the Greater Naples area, which has a population exceeding one million people. The Palace of Capodimonte, the Napolitan National Gallery, and the Catacombs of San Gennaro all surround the city center of Casandrino, attracting visitors from around Italy and the world. Casandrino remains at the center of Italy's culture of art, history, and commerce.

Termoli has a rich history as a seaside village on the Adriatic coast of Italy. It is known

for the purity of its waters and white, sandy beaches. Less developed and more historical than other seaside towns of Italy, Termoli features restored Romanesque architecture and many fine restaurants and resorts. Termoli humbly welcomes thousands of Italian and foreigners each year.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the vital role mayors hold in our local communities. I understand that mayors face many similar challenges around the world, and I recognize my friends and colleagues Dott. Antimo Silvestre and Dott. Antonio Di Brino as distinguished leaders in their communities.

HONORING JANICE SCOTT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Fresno resident Janice Scott; and to recognize Janice for her dedication to changing her life's path. Over the past three years Janice has worked hard to overcome many challenges, an achievement which deserves to be recognized.

Less than a year ago, Janice, a 36-year-old Fresno native, was homeless and lived in a tent city located in downtown Fresno. After being involved in an abusive relationship for three years, Janice had no job, no educational degree, and no hope. Janice struggled to meet her basic needs and be a productive member of society. During this time, Janice was approached by Mr. Greg Barfield, Fresno's "Homeless Czar", and was given the opportunity to move off of the streets and into her own apartment provided by the City of Fresno.

The City of Fresno's community-wide initiative known as "Fresno First Steps Home," provided Janice with a more stable environment. Janice not only took advantage of this opportunity, she used it as a springboard to work toward a better life. She enrolled in the North Campus of Heald College with a full-ride scholarship, and is on track to graduate with honors. Upon graduation, she is excited to pursue a career in Medical Administration. Janice knows that her future career will allow her to give back to the community which provided her the opportunity for not only a new home, but to begin a new life. Earlier this year, Janice's accomplishments and hard-work were recognized by Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, who presented Janice with a prestigious award, entitled the "Key to the City".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Janice Scott for her hard work to better her life and provide hope to others around her, and wishing her great success in her future endeavors.